



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/590,486	06/08/2000	Brian Hamilton	9122-2	1098

7590 07/13/2004

Lee M. Kirby, Jr.  
Smith, Anderson, Blount, Dorsett, Mitchell et al.  
PO Box 2611  
Raleigh, NC 27601-2611

EXAMINER

KARMIS, STEFANOS

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3624

DATE MAILED: 07/13/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. The following communication is in response to Applicant's Amendment filed on 06 April 2004.

***Status of Claims***

2. Claims 1, 5, 10, 12, 15, 19, 24, 28 and 33 have been amended. Claims 2-4, 6-9, 11, 13, 14, 16-18, 20-23, 25-27, 29-32 and 34-37 have been left as originally filed. Claims 38-46 have been newly added.

***Response to Applicant's Amendment***

3. The amendment filed on 06 April 2004 is not fully responsive to the prior Office action because of the following omission(s) or matter(s): the Applicant's reply does not comply with 37 C.F.R. 1.111 (b) because it does not include arguments pointing out specific distinctions believed to render the added new claim(s) 36-48, are patentable over the applied reference. See 37 C.F.R. 1.111(b). Since the above-mentioned reply appears to be bona fide, applicant is given a time period of ONE (1) MONTH or THIRTY (30) DAYS from the mailing date of this notice, whichever is longer, within which to supply the omission or correction in order to avoid abandonment. Extensions of this time period maybe granted under 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Art Unit: 3624

***Conclusion***

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stefano Karmis whose telephone number is (703) 305-8130. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vincent Millin can be reached on (703) 308-1065. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Respectfully Submitted  
Stefano Karmis  
08 July 2004



**HANI M. KAZIMI  
PRIMARY EXAMINER**